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Pressure on CIA 'outrageous'

Bush addresses local Republican group

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"Outrageous" congressional pressure on the CIA and the FBI are "tying U.S. hands" in terms of maintaining a productive intelligence system, former CIA director George Bush said here Friday.

Bush addressed 500 members and guests of the Associated Republicans of Texas, an independent local candidate recruiting and financing organization, at a fundraising dinner in the Sheraton Crest Inn. ART chairman Julian Zimmerman said the event grossed more than \$70,000 for GOP activities at the local level over the state.

"We must have a strong defense to counter Soviet threats, and it can't be done if Congress continues to put further pressure on the CIA and FBI," said Bush.

Turning to politics, Bush said Republicans must recruit candidates who can appeal to a broad base of Texas voters if they want to win elections.

While he has been considered such a candidate, Bush virtually ruled himself out as a 1978 gubernatorial candidate but he reserved the right to change his mind.

President Carter's energy policies are "unrealistic" and can be used to the advantage of "the party on the outside," Bush said. But he added:

"It is not enough that the Republican party sit back and wait for somebody else to fall down...It is absolutely essential we have candidates who can appeal to a broader base. We have to be perceived as having meaningful alternatives."

Ex-oilman Bush said the Carter energy policy contains an excess of "gimmickry with the tax system" but does not offer incentives to oil and gas exploration or provide for real research into alternative fuel sources.

At a news conference earlier in the day here, Bush suggested the name of Houston attorney

James Baker, former under secretary of commerce and chairman of the President Ford Committee in 1976, as one with credentials for statewide candidacy as a Republican.

The former congressman, ex-GOP national chairman, onetime UN ambassador and U.S. envoy to China for 14 months said he will campaign for U.S. Sen. John Tower in 1978. He brushed off inquiries as to whether he would be a senatorial candidate again if Tower didn't run. Bush ran for the Senate unsuccessfully twice.

Bush said he knows of no spy flights over China or Russia while he was CIA chief. And he said he has seen no evidence the Central Intelligence Agency was "even peripherally involved" in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Acknowledging that the agency has engaged in some domestic snooping in the past, Bush said he feels the CIA is now "living within the law."